

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
means ~~a converter~~ for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing PCM multiple-channel audio contents information; and  
means for enabling channel information and a portion of the audio contents information to be placed in adjacent portions of the given area respectively, the channel information corresponding to the portion of the audio contents information.
2. (Original) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the packets resulting from conversion of a data stream containing audio packs storing PCM multiple-channel audio contents information, channel information and a portion of the audio contents information being placed in adjacent portions of the given area respectively, the channel information corresponding to the portion of the audio contents information; and  
means for decoding the channel information.
3. (Original) A method of signal transmission, comprising the steps of:  
converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing PCM multiple-channel audio contents information;  
enabling channel information and a portion of the audio contents information to be placed in adjacent portions of the given area respectively, the channel information corresponding to the portion of the audio contents information; and  
transmitting the packets via a serial interface.
4. (Original) A signal transmission medium comprising:  
means for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing PCM multiple-channel audio contents information;

means for enabling channel information and a portion of the audio contents information to be placed in adjacent portions of the given area respectively, the channel information corresponding to the portion of the audio contents information; and

means for transmitting the packets from a transmission side to a reception side via a serial interface.

5. (Currently amended) A signal processing apparatus comprising:

~~means~~ a converter for converting a data stream containing an audio data stream into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio data stream storing audio data resulting from a compression process; and

means for enabling compression information to be placed in the given area, the compressing information representing a type of the compression process on the audio data in the audio data stream.

6. (Currently amended) A signal processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the packets resulting from conversion of a data stream containing an audio data stream storing audio data resulting from a compression process, compression information being placed in the given area, the compression information representing a type of the compression process on the audio data in the audio data stream; and

means for decoding the compression information.

7. (Currently amended) A method of signal transmission, comprising the steps of:

converting a data stream containing an audio data stream into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio data stream storing audio data resulting from a compression process;

enabling compression information to be placed in the given area, the compression information representing a type of the compression process on the audio data in the audio data stream; and

transmitting the packets via a serial interface.

8. (Currently amended) A signal transmission medium comprising:  
means for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing audio data resulting from a compression process;  
means for enabling compression information to be placed in the given area, the compression information representing a type of the compression process on the audio data in the audio packs in the data stream; and  
means for transmitting the packets from a transmission side to a reception side via a serial interface.
9. (Currently amended) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
means a converter for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area; and  
means for enabling at least one of a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag to be placed in the given area.
10. (Original) A signal processing apparatus as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for down-sampling and dequantizing main data into processing-resultant data, means for receiving a transmission request, and means for loading the packets with the processing-resultant data and transmitting the packets in response to the received transmission request.
11. (Original) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving packets each having a given area, the packets resulting from conversion of a data stream containing audio packs, wherein at least one of a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag is placed in the given area; and  
means for decoding the at least one of the down sampling flag, the down mix flag, and the dequantization flag.

12. (Original) A method of signal transmission, comprising the steps of:  
converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area;  
enabling at least one of a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag to be placed in the given area; and  
transmitting the packets via a serial interface.
13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of down-sampling and dequantizing main data into processing-resultant data, receiving a transmission request, and loading the packets with the processing-resultant data and transmitting the packets in response to the received transmission request.
14. (Original) A signal transmission medium comprising:  
means for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area;  
means for enabling at least one of a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag to be placed in the given area; and  
means for transmitting the packets from a transmission side to a reception side via a serial interface.
15. (Currently amended) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
~~means~~ a converter for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing audio data resulting from an encoding process; and  
means for enabling encoding information to be placed in the given area, the encoding information representing a type of the encoding process.
16. (Original) A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the packets resulting from conversion of a data stream containing audio packs storing audio

data resulting from an encoding process, encoding information being placed in the given area, the encoding information representing a type of the encoding process; and means for decoding the encoding information.

17. (Original) A method of signal transmission, comprising the steps of:  
converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing audio data resulting from an encoding process;  
enabling encoding information to be placed in the given area, the encoding information representing a type of the encoding process; and  
transmitting the packets via a serial interface.

18. (Original) A signal transmission medium comprising:  
means for converting a data stream containing audio packs into packets each having a given area assigned to real data, the audio packs storing audio data resulting from an encoding process;  
means for enabling encoding information to be placed in the given area, the encoding information representing a type of the encoding process; and  
means for transmitting the packets from a transmission side to a reception side via a serial interface.

19. (Original) A signal transmission medium as recited in claim 18, wherein the encoding process comprises a 1-bit DSD encoding process.

20. (Original) A signal transmission medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the down sampling flag indicates halving an original sampling frequency.

21. (Original) A signal transmission medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the compression information comprises information representing that DSD encoded data are compressed by a predetermined compression process.